

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /069 W

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R 130850Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9938

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

FBIS OKINAWA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 4206

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS CH

SUBJECT: PRC SECURITY MEASURES IN CONNECTION WITH HUA KUO-FENG

APPOINTMENT

1. AN AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER VISITING SHANGHAI ON APRIL 7 WAS PRESENT AT A MUSICAL PERFORMANCE AT WHICH THE APPOINTMENT OF HUA KUO-FENG AS PREMIER AND THE REMOVAL OF TENG HISAO-PING FROM ALL OF HIS POSITIONS WAS ANNOUNCED. THE NEWS WAS GREETED BY THE CHINESE AUDIENCE WITH SCATTERED, POLITE APPLAUSE, BUT ABSOLUTELY NO SPONTANEOUS DEMONSTRATION OF ENTHUSIASM. EN ROUTE BACK TO HIS HOTEL, THE OFFICER'S CAR WAS PASSED BY OVER 150 MOTORCYCLES WITH SIDECARS. EACH VEHICLE BORE THREE MEN AND HAD MOUNTED MACHINE GUNS AS WELL AS AUTOMATIC RIFLES. THE INDIVIDUALS WERE IN UNIFORM, BUT HIS CHINA TRAVEL SERVICE GUIDE DESCRIBED THEM AS MILITIA.

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2. JAPANESE CONGEN OFFICER HAS TOLD US THAT THEY HAVE

RELIABLE INFORMATION INDICATING THAT EXTREMELY TIGHT SECURITY MEASURES WERE IMPOSED IN BOTH NANKING AND SHANGHAI IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT IN TIEN AN MEN. HE CLAIMED THAT CHINESE WERE UNABLE TO PURCHASE RAILWAY TICKETS TO DEPART NANKING AND THAT THE PLA HAD BEEN POSTED ON ROADS GOING OUT OF THE CITY TO PREVENT NANKING RESIDENTS FROM LEAVING. HE SAID SIMILAR SECURITY MEASURES WERE IN EFFECT IN SHANGHAI. AND THAT EVEN YOUNG STUDENTS WERE INSTRUCTED TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR BAD ELEMENTS AND TO REPORT THEM TO THE AUTHORITIVES.

3. COMMENT: IN SHANGHAI, SECURITY MEASURES APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN RELAXED ON THE DAY FOLLOWING THE HUA/TENG ANNOUNCEMENT. BUT THERE WAS OBVIOUSLY SERIOUS CONCERN ABOUT THE REACTION OF THE POPULACE TO THESE SUDDEN MOVES.
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